

## Great coverage on Ukraine attacks

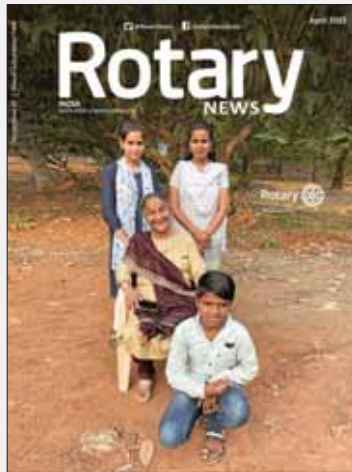
As an inquisitive Rotarian, a voracious reader, and a part-time accredited scribe, I was attracted to your bold and precise writing in the Editor's note — *Ukraine's pain... and media bias*. As I've visited Ukraine in 2014 and 2019 and my son is settled there, I can gauge the pain and suffering of the people. You have nicely narrated the tale of World War II, its impact on world peace, and about the wars in Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan. Your concluding remarks are worth re-reading and commendable — *A human life is a human life. That's non-negotiable.*

*Abhay Kishore Sandwar, RC  
Dhanbad Midtown — D 3250*

The April issue is yet another example of the wonderful humanitarian deeds by Rotarians across the country. Hats off to the Editorial team for bringing out exemplary issues. RI President's message has focused on protecting nature, the Editor has nicely highlighted the media bias and carnage in Ukraine, and Rotary's efforts to bring peace in this world.

The article on Pune Rotarians gifting a home for homeless children brings joy and pride in all of us. The devastation in Ukraine will make even a strong mind weep. PRID Kamal Sanghvi helped to rescue the children of many Rotarians from the war-torn land. Honouring 500 Rotarians completing 25 years in Rotary is a wonderful gesture. Setting up 100 dialysis units in Chennai hospitals will really ignite Rotary's brand.

*Rotary News* has become a friend and guide to all those willing



to do more and serve more. Special appreciation to the editorial team for constantly improving the magazine's quality.

*Dr Jayasekharan VP  
RC Payyanur — D 3204*

It's good that TRF has made provisions to assist victims of Ukrainian war. Really sad to read the pathetic condition of Ukrainian citizens as described by the Editor and pray for peace in that country. The assistance rendered by Rotary clubs to Ukraine is really commendable.

The cover photo of Renutai and the children is beautiful. Happy to note that Pune Rotarians have gifted a home for homeless children. The picture of a peacock sitting on a leafless tree is marvellous. RI President Mehta has stressed on the importance of protecting the Earth; the Editor's note explains graphically the devastating perils of war and the bias in media reporting. RID Mahesh Kotbagi explains the importance of following rules in Rotary. RID AS Venkatesh

focuses on cordial relationship among Rotarians to retain membership. Other notable articles are *Rotary brings to life a lost river; 500 Rotarians honoured for completing 25 years in Rotary; 100 dialysis units installed in Chennai hospitals; Bharuch Rotarians rescue kite-hit birds; and Rotary gives e-bikes for Bengaluru PHC workers.*

*Philip Mulapone MT  
RC Trivandrum — D 3211*

I look forward to every issue of *Rotary News* as it brings me all the vibrancy and action of Rotary clubs across the country. RI Director Mahesh Kotbagi, TRF Trustee Chair John Germ and Trustee Gulam Vahanvaty's messages were inspirational. The pictures of devastated Ukraine and the article pained me a lot. The work done by Rotary for Ukraine and PRID Kamal Sanghvi's help in rescuing students from Ukraine are commendable. The cover story of a home for homeless children and report on 500 Rotarians being honoured in Pune were good. I was happy to see my club, RC Deonar doing great work in MHM under *Project RED*.

The cover page in the March issue showcasing Rotary's polio work in Pakistan is timely. The rich tribute to Lata Mangeshkar is heartwarming.

RCCs have always connected with me and my club has done incredible work over the last 25 years in this area. Reading about RCC Vidyaranyapura was awesome.

*Vivek Khandelwal  
RC Deonar — D 3141*

# RC Deonar nurtures RCC for 25 years

Vivek Khandelwal



**F**or more than 25 years, the members of RC Deonar, RID 3141, have nurtured the concept of Rotary Community Corps (RCC) in the Karjat taluk of Raigad district, Maharashtra.

The work at an RCC is always a joint partnership between the Rotarians and the RCC team comprising the villagers residing in the area. The villages near Deonar have seen considerable development since the club's intervention.

It all started with Shelu, a village in Karjat taluk where the club installed its first RCC. Today the club has installed five RCCs covering 46 villages in this taluk, transforming the lives of over 100,000 people.

The journey began with a focus on polio eradication in the village where several children were affected by polio.

With the help of the RCCs the club had sponsored 130 polio corrective surgeries across the villages and this helped in deepening the bond with Rotary among the locals.

The RCCs helped in identifying a group of villagers for a vocational training (VTT) programme to Israel that was done with an intent to understand agricultural practices



**Clockwise: A hand operated borewell being inaugurated by Rtn Usha Desai in the presence of members of RC Deonar and RCC members; Village children perform a prayer song at an RCC installation; AKS member Kulbhushan Jetly inaugurates a hand operated borewell in a village; Classroom furniture sponsored by an RCC for a village school.**





and improve crop yield. Over the years, the learning has immensely contributed to enhancing the local produce.

Other areas where the RCCs have helped in uplifting the lives of people include encouraging organic farming and women's empowerment programmes. Village development initiatives include check dam projects, providing drinking water for village communities and schools, public utility toilet blocks, medical facilities, upgrading infrastructure in schools, promoting sports in the villages and vocational training for youth and women.

While the above may not be an exhaustive list, what is crucial is consistency in ideation leading to implementation and ensuring sustainability is monitored.

Club members Kulbhushan Jetly, Satish Lamba, Jhankar Gadkari, Ajit Pappu, Nagesh and Kannan have contributed immensely to the ongoing development. With the change of guard every year, each president has given strong support to the continuation of projects and initiatives that have been running for years.

The development of leadership at the local level plays a significant role and that is where leaders like Arjun Tare, Sitaram B, and many such pillars have made the RCCs what they are today.

One of the remarkable transformations that has come through this dedicated work is building new lines of leadership. In Oct 2021, RCC Bhivpuri appointed its first woman president, Archana Deshmukh.



*The writer is member of  
RC Deonar, RID 3141*

# A special day for the disabled

## Team Rotary News

**U**nder its newly-created avenue, Able to Ability, RID 3141 organised a series of programmes to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by joining hands with local NGOs and several Rotary clubs in the district. RC Bombay Powai was the lead club. Laughter therapist Bhagwan Babur conducted a workshop on finding happiness, wellbeing and love amid hardships and challenges in daily life. “Around 160 disabled people, parents, caregivers

and Rotarians interacted with the trainer and enjoyed the laughter session,” said Vivek Khandelwal from RC Deonar.

The club donated over 150 ration kits to visually-impaired people who enthralled the audience with a musical show hosted by the Human Welfare Charitable Trust. A panel discussion on mental health challenges and managing disability during the pandemic created the much-needed awareness on the daily hassles being faced by the disabled.

RC Palghar sponsored the wedding of five disabled couples and helped them with household essentials. “The club started a computer training programme for the second batch of 25 hearing and speech-impaired people at the SDSM College, Palghar.”

In another outreach, RC Ghatkopar West donated a specially-designed wheelchair to para athlete Geeta Chouhan for her participation in national and global sports events.

“The day-long event ended with a dual district

programme with ‘Able to Ability’ of RID 3141 and ‘Enable the Differently Abled’ of RID 3232 coming together on a virtual platform for a common cause,” said Khandelwal. RID 3141 DG Rajendra Agarwal and RID 3232 DGND N S Saravanan attended the virtual meet in which over 100 Rotarians from Chennai, Mumbai and the US interacted with each other.

### Four achievers honoured

Geeta Chouhan (basketball), Siddharth Sanjay Mhatre (disabled activist), Priya Gada (dancer) and Dhivya K (wheelchair runner) were felicitated for their grit and tenacity to achieve big despite their physical limitations.

A musical entertainment by Smiling Souls consisting of young differently-abled children brought the curtains down on an eventful day filled with interesting programmes and sessions. Project director A V Suresh from RC Deonar and co-chair M Hari

Prakash from RC IT City Chennai coordinated the virtual programme. ■

**Rotarians solemnise the wedding of a disabled couple.**

